

October 11, 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Powell,


I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

A robust, competitive market for consumer electronics must be rooted in manufacturers' ability to innovate for their customers. Allowing movie studios to veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell technologists what new products they can create. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, and it could result in me being charged more money for inferior functionality.

If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would actually be less likely to make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Daniel Smith
1273 W Washington Ave
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
USA



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Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Hugo Romero
9961 SW 15 Terr.
Miami, FL 33174
USA



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Sincerely,

Chris Binder
535 Misty Moss Ln.
Saint Peters, MO 63376
USA



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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Powell,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, I personally have constructed a high-definition television receiver to allow me to watch high-quality television programming. I constructed this receiver out of a Drake demodulator and helped write software myself (for the Linux operating system) to decode the signal.


This has resulted in benefits for the broadcast community — by direct analysis of the signal (which the broadcast flag mandate would make illegal or impossible for others to do) we have found several mistakes in NBC, CBS and ABC's use of the HDTV specification and have been in contact with NBC and ABC about fixing them.

If you promulgate the broadcast flag as law, you will make it illegal for others to do what I have done, because the Drake Company will no longer be able to sell demodulators that deliver the signal in unencrypted form. No free-software Linux program would be able to have access to the unencrypted signal in order to display it. Broadcasters will lose the benefits of hobbyists' analysis.

Please do not mandate the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Keith Winsteln
550 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139
USA



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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Benjamin Segal
2633 Plymouth Rd.
Minnetonka, MN 55305
USA



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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

J Michael Summitt
4231C N Shallowford Rd
Atlanta, GA 30341
USA



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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Powell,

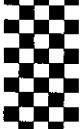
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Sincerely,

Patrick Berry
1093 East Lindo Ave.
Chico, CA 95926
USA



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Washington, D.C. 20554

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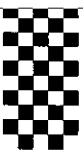
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Sincerely,

John Wallpe
31 Yahl Ct
Sacramento, CA 95833
USA



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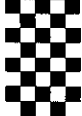
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Sincerely,

Thomas Rini
7018 E Elbow Bay Dr
Tucson, AZ 85710
USA



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Sincerely,

Michael Gold
60 West 23rd Street
Apt 814
New York, NY 10010
USA



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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

John Hughes
455 W 46th St Apt 5A
New York, NY 10036
USA

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Sincerely,

Seth Larmer
R1#54
Oronogo, MO 64855
USA



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Sincerely,

William S. Paris
31 Baxter Street
Buffalo, NY 14207
USA

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Sincerely,

Nephi Ferguson
5912 Luna St.
Houston, TX 77076
USA



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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Mandar Mirashi
162 Rinaldi Blvd Apt 10A
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
USA

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Sincerely,

John Reeves
1935 Hidden Valley
Rockwall, TX 75087
USA



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Sincerely,

Spencer Cross
814 1/4 N. Detroit St.
Los Angeles, CA 90046
USA



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Sincerely,

seth benson
1239 17th Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
USA



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Sincerely,

H. Nix
105 Doris Lane Apt. A
Florence, AL 35630
USA

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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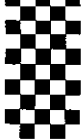
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Sincerely,

Joseph Gratz
1400 S 2nd St
Minneapolis, MN 55454
USA



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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Matthew Haughey
1254 NE 27th Street
McMinnville, OR 97128
USA

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Jeff Carvalho
20 Belknap St #2
Somerville, MA 02144
USA

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Scott Laird
10335 NE 201st Pl
Bothell, WA 98011
USA

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Sincerely,

Douglas Chase
384 Prospect
Buffalo, NY 14201
USA



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I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

If the motion picture studios have their way, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will force all future televisions to include Hollywood-approved "content protection" technologies. Fair use, innovation and competition will suffer. What's more, the "broadcast flag" technology that the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) has proposed is so weak that it will do nothing to stem Internet redistribution of television programs. In fact, the only people hurt by this are legitimate consumers, innovators and researchers.

A robust, competitive market for consumer electronics must be rooted in manufacturers' ability to innovate for their customers. Allowing movie studios to veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell technologists what new products they can create. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, and it could result in me being charged more money for inferior functionality.

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Sincerely,

Zac Holman
3765 Mount Vernon Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45209
USA